>Title: Request to review the decision to shift foreign department of the State Bank of India from Calcutta to Mumbai.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, there is a move to shift the foreign department of the State Bank of India from Calcutta to Mumbai. Twelve years ago, there was an attempt by the Central Government to shift that Department from Calcutta to Mumbai, but that was resisted and we opposed it on the floor of this House at that time and the Central Government could not at that point of time shift the foreign department of the State Bank of India from Calcutta to Mumbai.

Now, there is again an attempt to shift this foreign department from Calcutta, which is in Calcutta since its inception. The Chief Minister of West Bengal as well as Comrade Somnath Chatterjee, Chairman, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation have already written to the Central Government not to shift this foreign department of the State Bank of India from Calcutta to Mumbai. The Minister of Finance is here. I urge upon him that if there is any decision to shift that Department from Calcutta to Mumbai that should not be implemented, the Government should review it and they should not shift the foreign department of the State Bank of India from Calcutta to Mumbai.

I demand a categorical assurance from the Minister of Finance that the Government will not take such a move to shift the foreign department from Calcutta to Mumbai.

Mr. Finance Minister, would you kindly assure us because it is the demand of the people of West Bengal?

">SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): May I add to this?

You are rightly reviewing the decision. This is one decision of the last Government we are very strongly opposed to. You are talking of a consensus. I would request you to please review it to see that it is not implemented. I am sure, I do not know whether this is a part of the Bengal Package or not. (Interruptions) May I request the hon. Minister of Finance to please have a review meeting and take the peoples' representatives and the Government of West Bengal also into confidence. Why do they do this? Already they have over-saturated the financial capital. I would have understood probably if Lucknow would have been chosen as it is a better place than Mumbai. After their meeting yesterday, the Prime Minister might like to review it.

This is a very sincere request. They should not queer the pitch. Apart from an emotional matter, this is a matter which has very vitally affected not only Bengal but the whole of Eastern India and the North-Eastern India.

Therefore, I would request him to please see that it is not implemented forthwith.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Chacko.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri P.C. Chacko to speak.

... (Interruptions)